REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to better distinguish over the prior art. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

It is gratefully appreciated that the Office Action indicates that claims 5 and 16 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Omoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,298); and claims 9-11 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Omoto in view of Sakagami (JP 2002-72722A). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

In particular, the applied references fail to disclose or suggest at least that a material of the magnetic core includes magnetic particles arranged in a base material under a dispersed state, as recited in independent claim 1.

Furthermore, the applied references fail to disclose or suggest that a magnetic field shield member provided on the periphery of a magnetic field generation means includes at least magnetic particles arranged in a base material under a dispersed state, as recited in independent claim 12.

Specifically, Figure 1 in Omoto discloses a fixing device 40 having a cylindrical fixing roller 41, a coil supporting member 42 disposed along the inside of the fixing roller 41, a heat applying coil 43 formed by winding a wire around the circumference of the coil supporting member 42 for inducing an induced current in the fixing roller 41 to heat it. Furthermore, the fixing roller 41 has a structure as a soft roller composed of a cylindrical thermally conductive base member, an elastic heat insulting layer, a magnetic elastic heat generating layer having magnetic particles mixed therein and a protective layer. See column 9, lines 35-61.

Omoto teaches that the magnetic elastic heat generating layer can be made of a blend of magnetic particles composed of fine particles of metallic ferromagnetic substances such as iron, chromium, nickel and cobalt. See column 10, lines 29-35.

Sakagami discloses an induction thermal fixing device equipped with a fixing roller 1, a pressure roller 2 and coil 3 to apply an AC magnetic field to the heating layer of the roller 1 so as to perform heating, and a means 8 to control the temperature of the roller 1 by controlling the AC current applied to the coil 3 by detecting the temperature of the roller 1. See Solution.

In contrast to the claimed invention, none of the applied references disclose or suggest at least that a material of the magnetic core includes magnetic particles arranged in a base material under a dispersed state. Furthermore, the applied references fail to disclose or suggest that a magnetic field shield member provided on the periphery of a magnetic field generation means includes at least magnetic particles arranged in a base material under a dispersed state. On the contrary, nowhere in the applied references are these features disclosed or suggested.

Because Omoto fails to disclose these features, Omoto does not disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. Furthermore, because Sakagami fails to compensate for deficiencies in Omoto, any resulting device would not have had magnetic permeability in the magnetic core material, and would not have increased the self-inductance and mutual inductance of the excitation coil or transformer in order to miniaturize parts. Accordingly, because it also would not have been obvious to combine the applied references to arrive at the claimed invention, it is respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-22 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 8, 2004

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